

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) The Government is formulating a legal framework for establishing an apex level central body for laying down standards and norms on energy consumption for equipments and appliances, energy labelling of equipments and appliances, and for energy auditing to promote the efficient use of energy for its conservation. The Government also promotes and encourages various programmes which promote public awareness on energy conservation. A draft report received from the single member committee pertaining to the proposed legislation on energy conservation is being examined by the Government.

[Translation]

Tours by Scouts and Guides

38. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of Bharat Scouts and Guides had participated in various international conferences abroad during last two years;

(b) if so, the names of the countries visited by them;

(c) the outcome of these tours; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase their interest in the works of social service?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The members of the Bharat Scouts and Guides participate in the international conferences and also in training workshops, seminars and jamborees, etc. The names of the countries visited by them during the last two years are as follow :

1996-97 Bhutan, Norway, Canada,
Hongkong, Sweden, Singapore.

1997-98 Malaysia, Japan, Bhutan, Korea,
Brunei, Daarusalam, Nepal,
Bangladesh, Thailand, Sri Lanka,
United Kingdom, Mexico, Hongkong,
Maldives.

(c) The conferences, workshops, seminars, jamborees and other camps etc. are organised by the World Organisation of Scout Movement (WOSM) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) through their regional headquarters. Many issues are discussed in these meetings which are useful for raising the standards

of Scout and Guide activities in the country. The trainers of the Bharat Scouts and Guides also participate in the international training programmes and workshops to update their knowledge and skills. Such events also lead to exchange of ideas for qualitative improvement in the activities of the Bharat Scouts and Guides.

(d) Social service is already an integral part of Bharat Scouts and Guides. National Programmes, such as, Oral Rehydration Therapy, Pulse Polio Immunization, Iodine Deficiency in Salt, Literacy Drive, Leprosy Eradication, Sanitation Promotion and Safe Drinking Water are some of the areas where Scouts and Guides fully participate.

Saffronisation of Education

39. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned R.S.S. propagating Hindutva through Text books appearing in 'The Sunday Times' Delhi edition dated October 25, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present to modify the existing curriculum and contents of the text books for Central system of Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools affiliated to CBSE.

[English]

Non-Utilisation of Funds for Elementary Education Programmes

40. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the States which have defaulted in utilisation of funds sanctioned for important elementary education programmes like Operation Black Board;

(b) the total amount allocated to Tamil Nadu in this regard during the last three years and the utilisation thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken for proper implementation of the elementary education programmes?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Funds are released to State Governments under Operation Blackboard scheme on receipt of proposals approved by State Level Empowered Committees and are subject to adjustment of unutilised funds with the concerned States. At present all States except Goa, Meghalaya, Sikkim and UT of Chandigarh have unutilised funds under Operation Blackboard.

(b) An amount of Rs. 725.00 lakhs which was released to Tamil Nadu under Operation Blackboard during last 3 years is reported to have been utilised.

(c) The progress of the implementation of the scheme is monitored through Quarterly Progress Reports submitted by the State Governments and UTs, review meetings and visits.

Neglect of Manuscripts

41. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an estimate of 30 million of manuscripts in various Indian languages are scattered all over the country in a state of neglect and disrepair;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether any committee has been set up by the Government for the preservation of these manuscripts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The exact number of manuscripts, and their location are not known. There are lakhs of manuscripts spread all over the country. The condition of manuscripts is also in varying kinds of disrepair. These are in the possession of individuals and institutions, in addition to being conserved and protected by State and Central Governments and museums.

(c) to (e) There is a scheme in the National Archives of India for preservation of the manuscripts. This scheme has been expanded to include private institutions and individuals eligible for financial assistance for conservation and preservation. In addition attempts are on to conceptualise a National Mission on manuscripts. A group of experts are associated with conceptualisation.

Elephant Poaching

42. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of elephant poaching reported from various States during the last three years State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent elephant poaching and the effectiveness of such steps during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The details of elephant poaching reported from various States during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The following steps have been taken to prevent poaching of elephants :

(i) Elephant is included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, which provides full protection against hunting & commercial exploitation.

(ii) Trade in elephant ivory has been totally banned to discourage poaching of elephants for its tusk.

(iii) The Asian Elephant is also included in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) which prohibits international Trade in Asian Ivory.

(iv) Government of India has launched Project Elephant in 1992 to provide impetus to the conservation of wild elephants in India. Under this project assistance is given to 12 States for strengthening their protection and communication infrastructure, development of habitat, prevention & mitigation of man-elephant conflicts etc.

Poaching of wild elephants has shown a declining trend which is indicative of the effectiveness of steps taken by the Government in this regard.

Statement

Details of Elephant Poaching reported from various States during the last three years

S.No.	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	1	Nil
3.	Assam	6	4	6
4.	Bihar	1	2	3